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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,882	06/25/2003	Yasuyuki Matsuura	2003_0858A	2263

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

TEKLE, DANIEL T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/12/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/602,882	MATSUURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel Tekle	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Argument

Applicant's arguments filed June 19, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page 10 2nd paragraph of the remark, ".....Although Orr appears to implement the use of protective attributes (e.g. managed as a ring buffer) from being overwritten by adding a predetermined offset to a pointer or writing device.....".

In response the examiner respectfully disagree. Orr discloses a protected field 170. The protected field operative when set to selectively disable deletion (**column 6 lines 49-59**) and also finds a record that has been watched and is not protected. Whenever the method finds a record corresponding to a show that has been watched and is not protected, the method adds the record to a list of deletable shows (**column 7 lines 57-67**). Therefore as mentioned above the cited reference show the bounder between re-writeable and protected recording area. Orr anticipated the overwritten by adding a predetermined offset to a pointer or writing device means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1, 3-10 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Orr (US 6760535).

Regarding Claim 1: Orr discloses a recording apparatus comprising: a continuous recording unit operable to perform continuous recording of broadcast content broadcasted from N hours ago to a current time onto a recording medium (**column 2 lines 38-46**); a receiving unit operable to receive a specification on a period of time within the broadcast content; a setting unit operable to set a protective attribute onto a part of the recording medium corresponding to the period of time, wherein the broadcast content is made up of a plurality of video units, the continuous recording unit being operable to perform the continuous recording by (i) receiving a broadcast to obtain a new video unit (**column 2 lines 38-46**), and (ii) overwriting an oldest video unit among the video units with the new video unit (**column 5 lines 4-12**), and the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute is protected against the overwriting performed by the continuous recording unit (**column 5 lines 13-21**); and a pointer operable to indicate a location of writing in the recording medium, the continuous recording unit being operable to perform the overwriting by (i) writing the new video unit to the location of writing (column 4-5, lines 58-3); indicated by the pointer, and (ii) subsequently adding a size of the new video unit to the pointer, wherein said recording apparatus is operable to protect against overwriting by adding an offset to the pointer when the pointer reaches a vicinity of the part having the protective attribute

such that the pointer skips the part having the protective attribute (column 6 lines 49-59 and column 7 lines 57-66).

Regarding Claim 3: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units, which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time, the recording apparatus further comprises a display unit operable to display a schedule table of the plurality of broadcast programs (**column 2 lines 53-63 and column 3 lines 42-63**), and the period of time is period during which the one of the plurality of broadcast programs is being broadcasted (**column 3 lines 14-22**).

Regarding Claim 4: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specification is made by an operation of inputting starting time and an ending time of the period (**column 6 lines 49-59 and column 7 lines 3-7**).

Regarding Claim 5: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specification is made by an operation of inputting a starting time, and the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which correspond to either (a) a predetermined length of time beginning at the starting time or (b) a predetermined length of time into past from the starting time (**column 7 lines 3-7**).

Regarding Claim 6: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 1, further comprising: a loading unit operable to load a portable recording medium (**column 3 lines 4-13**); and

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a copying unit operable to copy, onto the portable recording medium, the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute (**column 4 lines 8-18**).

Regarding Claim 7: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 6, wherein the part of the recording medium keeps having the protective attribute there on until the part finishes being copied onto the portable recording medium, at which time the protective attribute gets cancelled (**column 4 lines 8-18**).

Regarding Claim 8: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units, which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time, the recording apparatus further comprises a reproducing unit operable to reproduce each of the video units recorded on the recording medium, and the setting unit, when each of the plurality of broadcast programs finishes being reproduced, inquires of the user whether or not a period corresponding to each broadcast program should be retained, and the specification is an affirmative reply in response to the inquiry (**column 7-8, lines 57-9**).

Regarding Claim 9: Orr discloses a recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units, which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time, the recording apparatus further comprises a reproducing unit operable to reproduce each of the video units recorded on the recording medium, and the specification indicates that a period corresponding to a

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broadcast program currently being reproduced should be retained (**column 7-8, lines 57-9**).

Regarding Claims 10 and 12-18: Claims 10 and 12-18 are rejected for the same subject matter as claims 1 and 3-9 respectively.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel Tekle whose telephone number is 571-270-1117. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am to 5:00pm M-R and 7:30-4:00 Every other F..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Daniel Tekle



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DANIEL TEKLE".

THAI Q. TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600